

APR 03 2020

By M. Field
DEPUTY CLERK

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SOLANO
DEPARTMENT EIGHT

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Case No.: MISC 002721

In Re: Probate, LPS and Guardianship Matters

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING
PROBATE, LPS AND GUARDIANSHIP
MATTERS DURING EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS**

THE COURT FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. On February 27, 2020, the County of Solano proclaimed a local emergency to exist due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pursuant to Government Code, §§ 8630 et seq.
2. On March 4, 2020, California Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist due to COVID-19 pursuant to Government Code, §§ 8550 et seq.
3. On March 13, 2020, President Trump proclaimed a national state of emergency to exist due to COVID-19.
4. On March 17, 2020, acting as the Chair of the Judicial Council, Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye granted the application for emergency orders sought by the Solano County Superior Court pursuant to Government Code, § 68115 for the period of March 17, 2020 through April 5, 2020 ("March 17, 2020 Emergency Order"). Pursuant to Government Code, § 68115(a)(4), due to the existence of an emergency condition that substantially interferes with

1 the public's ability to file papers in court, the days are deemed "holidays" for the purpose of
2 computing time for filing papers with the court under sections 12 and 12a of the Code of Civil
3 Procedure.

4 5. On March 17, 2020, Solano County Superior Court Presiding Judge Donna Stashyn
5 issued a General Order re: Implementation of Emergency Relief authorizing implementation of
6 the March 17, 2020 Emergency Order by individual judicial officers.

7 6. On March 18, 2020, the Solano County Health Officer issued an order effective through
8 April 7, 2020, directing all individuals living in Solano County to shelter at their place of
9 residence except to provide or receive certain essential services or engage in certain essential
10 activities on behalf of businesses and governmental agencies. The order further directed
11 businesses and governmental agencies to cease non-essential activities at places within Solano
12 County and to cease non-essential gatherings.

13 8. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 ordering all
14 individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or their place of residence except as
15 needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors.
16 Executive Order N-33-20 is in effect until further notice.

17 9. On March 19, 2020, the Solano County Superior Court announced the reduction of
18 operations to implement the order of the Solano County Health Officer and to focus on public
19 safety.

20 10. On March 23, 2020, Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye issued a state-wide order
21 continuing all jury trials for a period of sixty (60) days and authorized superior courts to adopt
22 any proposed rule or amendment to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to take
23 effect immediately.
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25

1 11. On March 30, 2020, Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye granted the amended
2 application for emergency orders sought by the Solano County Superior Court pursuant to
3 Government Code, § 68115 for the period of March 17, 2020 through May 1, 2020 (“March 30,
4 2020 Emergency Order”).

5 12. On March 30, 2020, Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye issued a state-wide order
6 further continuing jury trials and extending additional authority to trial courts.

7 13. On March 30, 2020, the Solano County Health Officer extended the shelter in place
8 order through April 30, 2020.

9 14. On April 1, 2020, Solano County Superior Court Presiding Judge Donna Stashyn
10 issued a General Order re: Implementation of Emergency Relief authorizing implementation of
11 the March 30, 2020 Amended Emergency Order by individual judicial officers.

12 **BASED UPON THE ABOVE FINDINGS, IT IS ORDERED:**

13 1. Protection of public health and safety in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic
14 has necessitated the reduction in court operations. While the court has limited operations, the
15 operations are restricted to processing and hearing essential matters that are required to comply
16 with an individual’s constitutional rights, necessitate emergency relief and/or to protect the
17 health and safety of the public. The orders to shelter in place substantially interfere with the
18 ability of civil litigants to access legal resources, seek legal assistance and/or file necessary
19 legal documents.

20 2. Letters establishing special powers in probate or estate matters which expire during
21 the period of emergency operations are extended 60 days from their current date of expiration.

22 3. Letters establishing temporary guardianship or conservatorship of a person and/or
23 estate are extended 30 days.

1 4. Hearings on initial petitions for letters of administration and petitions to establish
2 fact/time/place of birth/marriage/death will not be conducted during the period of emergency
3 operations. As resources permit, the court will endeavor to post pre-grants for scheduled
4 matters. The pre-grants will identify tentative rulings for proposed orders, action items or
5 potential areas for correction. With the exception of hearings scheduled following the
6 processing an ex parte application for emergency relief based upon exigent circumstances, and
7 hearings to establish the fact of publication only, no hearing on any probate matter will be
8 conducted during the period of emergency operations. A hearing or continued hearing date
9 will be identified in the pre-grant or will be separately noticed.
10

11 5. If appearance is necessary on any probate matter, parties shall contact the department
12 to secure permission to appear via Court Call or to appear via alternative arrangements.
13 Personal appearances are strongly discouraged.

14 6. Because of the rapidly evolving situation and response to the COVID-19 pandemic,
15 unless a hearing date is expressly noticed in the pre-grant, the court will provide notice of a
16 continued hearing date upon conclusion of the period of emergency operations. In the event the
17 need for emergency operations resolves earlier than May 1, 2020, this order may be revisited.
18

19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

20 Dated: April 3, 2020



WENDY G. GETTY
Supervising Civil Judge
Solano County Superior Court